Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A device for controlling a facsimile transmission of confidential information comprising:

a comparison unit adapted to compare, at a near end, a near end password with a far end password entered <u>after communications between a near end fax and a far-end fax have begun</u> [[at]] ~~said time of facsimile initiation transmitted to said device for controlling said facsimile transmission~~; and

a transmission unit adapted to allow transmission of confidential information to a far end if said near end comparison of said near end password with said far end password results in a match.

2. (previously presented) The device as in claim 1, wherein said device comprises:

a facsimile machine.

3. (previously presented) The device as in claim 1, wherein said device comprises:

a PC modem.

4. (previously presented) The device as in claim 1, wherein said device comprises:

a chipset.

5. (previously presented) The device as in claim 1, wherein said device comprises:

a digital signal processor.

6. (previously presented) The device as in claim 1, further comprising:

an encryptor adapted to encrypt confidential information.

7. (previously presented) The device as in claim 6, wherein:

said encryptor is adapted to PGP-encrypt said confidential information.

8. (previously presented) The device as in claim 1, further comprising:

a decryptor adapted to decrypt confidential information.

9. (previously presented) The device as in claim 1, further comprising:

a signal module adapted to generate a notification signal upon receipt of a password request signal.

10. (previously presented) The device as in claim 1, further comprising:

a signal module adapted to generate a distribution request signal to prompt a far end user to enter distribution instructions.

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) A method for controlling facsimile transmission of confidential information, comprising:

comparing, at a near end, a near end password with a far end password entered <u>after communications between a near end fax and a far-end fax have begun</u> [[at]] ~~said time of facsimile initiation transmitted from said far-end device at a receiving end of said facsimile transmission~~; and

authorizing transmission of confidential information from said near end to said far end if said comparison results in a match.

21. (previously presented) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

encrypting said confidential information.

22. (previously presented) The method as in claim 21, further comprising:

PGP-encrypting said confidential information.

23. (previously presented) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

decrypting confidential information.

24. (previously presented) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

generating a notification signal upon receipt of a password request signal.

25. (previously presented) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

generating a distribution request signal to prompt a user at said far end to enter distribution instructions.

26. (currently amended) A method for controlling facsimile transmission of confidential information, comprising:

comparing, at a near end, a near end password with a far end password entered <u>after communications between a near end fax and a far-end fax have begun</u> [[at]] ~~said time of facsimile initiation transmitted from said far end device at a receiving end of said facsimile transmission~~; and

encrypting said facsimile;

authorizing transmission of confidential information from said near end to said far end if said comparison results in a match.

27. (previously presented) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

encrypting said confidential information.

28. (previously presented) The method as in claim 21, further comprising:

PGP-encrypting said confidential information.

29. (previously presented) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

decrypting confidential information.

30. (previously presented) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

generating a notification signal upon receipt of a password request signal.

31. (previously presented) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

generating a distribution request signal to prompt a user at said far end to enter distribution instructions.